



The Battlefield Dispatch

The Struggle for the "Gateway" Begins! 150th Anniversary Commemoration

Remembrance

A message from Superintendent Cathleen Cook...

One hundred and fifty years ago this fall, Union and Confederate soldiers battled in the mountains, fields, and forests of north Georgia and southwest Tennessee. At Chickamauga, of the almost 130,000 men engaged in battle, 4,000 would give the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield. During the Campaign for Chattanooga, another 12,485 died. Efforts to memorialize the fallen began shortly after combat ceased. The need for a Union burial ground following the fierce fighting led to the creation of a cemetery in Chattanooga. Under the authority of Union General George H. Thomas, the cemetery was established December 25, 1863. The cemetery received an official designation as a National Cemetery in the 1867 passage of "An Act to Establish and Protect Cemeteries". Today the remains of more than 12,900 Union Civil war veterans are buried at Chattanooga National Cemetery.

We remember those who fell so valiantly on the battlefield in other ways as well. Through the monuments, markers, tablets, and plaques that are integrated into the battlefield landscape. Funded through the states, private individuals, and the Federal Government and sited by veterans from both sides to mark the heroic acts on the battlefield, they tell the stories of bravery and sacrifice during the battles. Walking the battlelines, reading the monuments, tablets, and wayside exhibits or taking the tour route provides you with not only an understanding of the battles but a true sense of the courageous actions of both sides. This September through November a series of in-depth educational programs will be offered that will assist you in going beyond the basics of the battles. They will help you discover the causes of the Civil War, stories of individual soldiers and generals, decisive actions that took place, and efforts at reunification of a divided

Nation. This anniversary is our time for remembrance as so well avowed by former Illinois governor John P. Altgeld. *"The world erected monuments in honor of heroic deeds, of patriotic sacrifice, and of great achievements. It does this not as a solace for the dead, but as inspiration for the living".*



A new day dawns at Viniard Field (above) and a member of the 15th U.S. Infantry peers into the forest along Battleline Road (below)

150TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMS

September 14-15, 2013

Commemorative Programs at Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center

Join park staff and volunteers at the park visitor center to experience various programs commemorating the Battle of Chickamauga.

Throughout the two days, living historians dressed as Union soldiers will provide artillery demonstrations near the visitor center building. The 8th Georgia Band will perform Saturday and Sunday morning, while bands from Heritage High School and Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School will provide performances Sunday afternoon. Also, there will be a family education tent near the visitor center providing different hands-on activities for kids.

Inside the visitor center, visitors can tour the museum's exhibits, view the park's new 26-minute orientation film, and visit the Eastern National bookstore. If you know of a relative who participated in the battle, a special research station will be available to find where your ancestor fought in 1863.

Visitor center hours are: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Parking will be located west of the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center in North McDonald Field.

For information on additional commemorative activities, visit Fort Oglethorpe Tourism: www.forttourism.org.

A Walk Through Time: 1860-1864

Visitors are encouraged to participate in a Civil War timeline that will take them through local experiences during this turbulent time in American history. Participants will board a bus and be transported back to 1860. From there they will follow living history scenarios all the way to 1864.

The tour begins at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center and lasts 1 hour and 50 minutes. The first bus loads at 9:00 a.m. and the last bus loads at 3:30 p.m.

Visitors may wish to bring portable chairs/stools for this program. There will be no seating along the timeline. However, it should be noted that chairs/stools will need to be carried from location to location.

Although this is a free tour, it is ticketed. Please obtain tickets before you arrive (www.nps.gov/chch)

Action on Horseshoe Ridge

21st Ohio and Longstreet's Corps on Horseshoe Ridge

Throughout the day, visitors will be immersed in the occurrences that took place between these Union and Confederate troops along the slopes of the ridge in 1863.

Living historians portraying soldiers of the 21st Ohio Infantry will conduct public programs on Horseshoe Ridge, while those portraying soldiers of Longstreet's Corps will be near the South Carolina Monument.

Visitors should park at the Recreation Field on Chickamauga Battlefield and take a shuttle to Horseshoe Ridge for these programs.

Lightning Strikes at Chickamauga: Wilder's Brigade

As the entire right wing of the Union Army of the Cumberland crumbled under the weight of the Confederates on September 20, one unit stood firm. Colonel Wilder's men, armed with the Spencer repeating rifle, stopped several thousand Southern soldiers in their tracks near Eliza Glenn's home on Chickamauga Battlefield.

Programs are scheduled as follows:

9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m.

Visitors wishing to participate in these programs are encouraged to park at Tour Stop #6, the Wilder Brigade Monument (Tower).

Confederate Breakthrough - Walk

On September 20, 1863, around 11,000 Confederates poured through a gap previously opened in the Union line. Join historians Dave Powell and Dr. Keith Bohannon as they walk and discuss the actions that unfolded around the Brotherton farm.

This program is a walking tour and will last two hours.

Program times are as follows:

9:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to park near Tour Stop #7. Special event signs will be in place to assist visitors in finding this parking area.

Chattanooga Double Decker Bus Tours of Chickamauga Battlefield
September 16-22

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park has partnered with Chattanooga Double Decker to provide special programs of Chickamauga Battlefield. This September, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga, Chattanooga Double Decker will be giving tours of the entire battlefield September 16 - 22, 2013. Tours will be about 1 hour long, will be fully narrated, and will give the absolute best views of the entire battlefield from on top of the double decker bus. Tour times will be 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Please visit the Chattanooga Double Decker website in order to purchase your tickets. Once on the site, go to the tickets tab, click to see tour times, find the dates in September and go ahead and purchase your tickets now! Tickets will also be available on-site.

Rededication of Lytle Monument
September 20

Union Brigadier General William H. Lytle fell during the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. He, along with other brigade commanders killed or mortally wounded, were memorialized after the war with three sided cannonball pyramids. Unfortunately, Lytle's pyramid was stripped of most of its cannonballs in previous decades. On the 150th anniversary of General Lytle's death, the Lytle Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans will assist the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Director and Park Superintendent in dedicating the newly restored monument. The rededication begins at 1:30 p.m. Parking will be located in the Recreation Field on Chickamauga Battlefield. For additional information, please visit the Friends of the Park website (www.friendsofchch.org)

Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra Concert
September 21

On Saturday evening, beginning at 7 p.m., the Friend of the Park will sponsor the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra it presents a pops concert at the Wilder Brigade Monument on Chickamauga Battlefield. For many years, the symphony offered a free July 4th concert near the monument's base. This 2013 event will be a special and nostalgic evening for residents and visitors, who are invited to converge on the beloved tower with blankets, camp chairs, picnic baskets and a taste for stirring American music. Just as a reminder, this is a "green" event. So, all trash should be pack-it-in, pack-it-out. Parking will be located in the Recreation Field on Chickamauga Battlefield. For additional information, please visit the Friends of the Park website (www.friendsofchch.org)

Special Programs at Chickamauga Battlefield
September 21-22

Visit Chickamauga Battlefield to learn about soldiers caught in the midst of the battle. Park rangers will provide special programs based upon the lives of individuals portrayed in the new park orientation film, "The Campaign for Chattanooga: Death Knell of the Confederacy." Artifacts and displays of the 1st Michigan Battery of Light Artillery will also be on-site throughout the weekend.

Special Guided Programs:

Saturday, September 21

10:30 a.m. - Joshua Callaway and the 28th Alabama on September 19, 1863
12:30 p.m. - George Van Pelt and the 1st Michigan Battery on September 19, 1863

Sunday, September 22

10:30 a.m. - Benjamin Helm and the Orphan Brigade on September 20, 1863
11:30 a.m. - Four-legged Soldiers: Horses and Mules in the Civil War
12:30 p.m. - The 1st Michigan Battery on September 20, 1863
2:30 p.m. - Joshua Callaway and the 28th Alabama on September 20, 1863

These special, 90 minute programs will include some walking. Please dress accordingly and be sure to bring a bottle of water.

Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event
"Occupation and Liberation" Symposium
October 9-12

Join us at the Chattanooga Convention Center as presenters discuss the battles, events, and stories of the Civil War. All Tennessee Sesquicentennial Commission sponsored events are free and open to the public.

Seating is limited; to reserve your seats please register via email at tn.civilwar150@tn.gov or call the registration line at 615-532-7520.

For additional information, please visit the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event website (<http://www.tnvacation.com/civil-war/>)

Special tours of Chickamauga Battlefield and various Civil War sites around Chattanooga will be provided on Saturday, October 12. For additional information and to purchase tickets online please visit the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (www.friendsofchch.org). You may also call the Friends at 423-648-5623 to purchase tickets.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Social Media During the 150th Anniversary

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park's web and social media team will be joined by the National Park Service, Civil War 150 social media team to bring you the most up-to-date coverage during the anniversary so that you can follow all the events and activities no matter where you are! Be sure to visit, check-in, and Like all of our web & social media sites.



www.nps.gov/chch



www.facebook.com/chchnps

All 150th anniversary programs will be conducted rain or shine. Most parking will take place in fields throughout the park. In the event of inclement weather, mired vehicles may need to be towed at the owner's expense.